

Menomonie Urban Forestry Board Minutes

June 16, 2021 – 2:00pm – Council Chambers – 800 Wilson Ave

Committee Members Present:

Cindy Gilberts (1 hr.)

Joe Jax (Chair) (2.5 hrs.)

Dennis Kropp (12 hrs.)

Bob Giede (3.5 hr.)

Nancy Schofield (3 hrs.)

Mike Smith (1 hr.)

Others present: Dick Henning, Megen Hines and Randy Eide

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 pm by Joe Jax, Chair.

Acceptance of Minutes: **MOTION** made by Cindy Gilberts to accept the May 19, 2021 meeting minutes, seconded by Bob Giede. **MOTION** carried.

Public Comments: - None

City Tree Canopy Inventory: - Megen Hines summarized recent efforts to begin the process of updating the City's tree canopy information. Dick Henning and Hines met last week to discuss changes to the GIS layer and submitted the requests to Cedar Corp. Cedar Corp has implemented the requested changes to make it more user-friendly to update and view the information online. Henning and his staff will work to update the tree canopy information using iPads and smartphones as time allows. Randy Eide showed the board the existing tree layer on the City's GIS portal. All of the information collected years ago at the request of the Urban Forestry Board is still in the GIS system, it is just time to update the information.

Dunn County Fair Booth: Dick Henning has submitted an application to the Fair board for a booth. He is unable to choose a booth location this year due to COVID-19 protocols. He will work on preparing a booth and will report on progress at next month's meeting.

UW-Stout Tree Replacement Plan: Mike Smith gave an update on the UW-Stout steam pipe replacement project. The project is in year one of a two-year project. The state is working with Ayres to develop a tree replanting plan. The Trees will be replanted after the completion of construction in 2022. Smith anticipates that it is likely that the number of trees planted will be comparable or more than the number of trees removed due to this project.

UW-Stout Bench Placement: Nancy Schofield stated that there are still a number of benches made by UW-Stout students that are needing homes within the City. Dick Henning stated he has placed one bench in the Brickyard Disc Golf Course at Schofield's recommendation. Much discussion on potential locations for the benches. Randy Eide suggested contacting the Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Menomonie to see if they had businesses that would be interested in placing benches on their sidewalks. Schofield will contact Downtown Menomonie to discuss this possibility and will give an update at the meeting next month.

Items for Discussion Only: Dennis Kropp noted that he read a recent article that stated the City of St. Paul is cutting down more than 13,000 ash trees. They have received a grant to assist with the removal and replanting of new trees. They plan to replant 2,000 trees per year.

Urban Forester Report:

- **Ash Tree Treatment:** Dick Henning has treated five trees and it continues to get faster with each tree treated. He has made a priority list, treating trees in the best condition first. Henning also reports that the gravel bed trees are doing well but they have required a lot of time to water due to the lack of rain this spring.

City Council Report:

- **Cork Tree Ordinance:** Randy Eide said the ordinance is ready to go to Council, but just waiting until the Council allows in-person public comment.

- **Emergency Order Status:** Randy Eide summarized the Council's discussion on the Emergency Order status. The council did not take any action at the last council meeting. The emergency order discussion will continue at the next Council meeting on Monday, June 21.
- **Construction Update:** Randy Eide summarized construction projects in the City. UW-Stout is replacing steam pipes in the area of South Broadway St from Main St to 11th Ave. South Broadway will be closed for 10 days as part of this project, it is estimated this will occur sometime in mid-July. Work has begun on River Rd as Xcel Energy is replacing a gas main and the road will have a mill and overlay. Sidewalk replacements on the south side of Main St and on Tainter St are ongoing. 21st St will be closed beginning June 17 from 11th Ave to Dairyland Rd, the project is expected to be completing prior to the start of school. Eide discussed the Estover Terrace development and reported construction has been delayed to Spring 2022.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 in the City Hall Council Chambers at 2:00 p.m. and via Zoom.

Items for Next Meeting: Bench Placement Updates, Dunn County Fair Booth

Adjournment: There being no further business, **MOTION** made by Nancy Schofield, seconded by Cindy Gilberts to adjourn at 2:57 pm. **MOTION** carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Megen Hines
Environmental Program Coordinator